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INFO RUEHTH/AMEMBASSY ATHENS 6727  
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RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO 4660  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1274  
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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

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#### HEADLINES

##### MASS APPEAL

CIA Plane Arrives in Istanbul - Aksam  
Erdogan: Terrorism not Compatible With Islam - Vatan  
'TRNC' to Take Down 'Berlin Wall' in Cyprus - Milliyet 11/26  
Arabs' No-Show in Barcelona Disappoints EU - Hurriyet  
Allawi: Situation in Iraq Worse than Saddam Era - Sabah  
Rumsfeld: Al-Jazeera Broadcasts 'Erroneous, Ugly' - Sabah  
Ramsey Clark Joins Saddam's Defense Team - Sabah  
Bosnia, EU Kick Off Membership Talks - Milliyet 11/26  
Scotland Demands Independence - Vatan  
British Marines Abuse Recruits - Hurriyet  
Poland Reveals Warsaw Pact's Nuclear Secrets - Hurriyet  
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Dervis May be Picked to Succeed Annan - Hurriyet 11/27  
Nobel Peace Fund Invests in US Weapons Companies - Sabah

##### OPINION MAKERS

EU-Mediterranean Summit to Discuss Terrorism - Radikal  
Spain: Turkey a Good Model for Muslim World - Zaman 11/27  
To Vima: CIA Planes Landed in Athens, Cyprus - Radikal  
EU: US Has 'Gitmo-Type' Prison in Kosovo - Yeni Safak 11/27  
Armenia Approves Critical Constitutional Changes - Zaman  
Sharon's New Party to Radicalize Israeli Right - Cumhuriyet  
Mubarak: Sharon is a Man of Peace - Cumhuriyet  
Israel Has 500 Nuclear Warheads - Yeni Safak  
Israel Gradually Occupies East Jerusalem - Zaman 11/26

Palestine Votes for Al-Fatah's Barguti - Radikal 11/27  
Palestinians Rush to Rafah Border Crossing - Yeni Safak  
11/27  
Zarkawi Aide Killed in Ramadi - Yeni Safak 11/27  
Ahmadinajad: West Must Account for its Crimes - Radikal  
11/27  
Polls: 6 of 10 Americans Do Not Trust Bush - Cumhuriyet  
Britain Fails Xenophobia Test - Cumhuriyet  
`Fixed' Elections in Chechnya - Yeni Safak  
Abortion Claims 68,000 Lives Every Year - Yeni Safak

#### BRIEFING

`CIA Planes' Land in Istanbul: Dailies carried extensive reports over the weekend claiming that a `CIA plane' landed in Istanbul on November 15, and stayed for 27 hours. The Minister of Transportation, Binali Yildirim, told the press that a CIA plane had landed at Istanbul's Sabiha Gokcen Airport to refuel during a `routine flight.' Yildirim said that the plane `had only a crew, and no passengers.' The Minister later clarified that the Government had not known whether the plane in question belonged to the CIA. A column in Sunday's "Sabah" claimed that before November 15, another `mysterious' CIA plane had stopped over in Istanbul while en route to Canada. Many commentators pressed the Turkish Government to demand answers about the alleged CIA flights from the US.

Sakka Lawyer Claims His Client Interrogated By US: The lawyer for Syrian al-Qaida ringleader Louai Sakka, currently in a prison in Istanbul for his alleged role in the November 2003 bombings there, claimed that a team including two

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Americans interrogated Sakka on November 15. The interrogators allegedly offered to resettle Sakka in a country of his choice on the condition that he testify against the Asad regime in the investigation of the assassination of former Lebanese PM Hariri. The lawyer claimed that the interrogators threatened to kill Sakka if he refused to cooperate. Turkish Justice Minister Cemil Cicek denied the report on Monday, saying that no foreigners had been involved in Sakka's interrogation.

Turkey May Launch Cross-Border Incursions into Iraq: Saturday's "Aksam" reported that at a security summit last week in Ankara, Turkish officials discussed preparations for a cross-border incursion into northern Iraq to pursue PKK militants if KDP leader Massoud Barzani fails to cooperate with Turkey. The paper regards the recent visit to southeast Turkey by TGS Chief Ozkok, Land Forces Commander Buyukanit, and Jandarma Commander Fevzi Turkeri as a preparation for a possible cross-border operation. Meanwhile, Saturday papers cite a report by the "Kurdistan Observer" website claiming that President Talabani had offered to close down PKK camps in northern Iraq in exchange for a financial contribution to his Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK). A PUK spokesman denied the report. The website report claims that Barzani rejected a similar Turkish offer, and gave Ankara the message that he will move against the PKK only if he is acknowledged by Turkey as the regional President of Iraqi Kurdistan. `Reliable KDP sources' said that this was Barzani's only condition to normalize ties with Turkey. The sources said that Barzani's nephew Nechirvan will pay a visit to Ankara before the upcoming Iraqi elections on December 15. A news-commentary in "Radikal" quotes unidentified Turkish Foreign Ministry (MFA) sources as saying that if the US decides to remove the PKK presence in northern Iraq, it will use the Kurds rather than its own troops in the region.

ITF Chairman Meets With FM Gul: Iraqi Turkmen Front (ITF) Chairman Saadettin Ergec said after meeting with FM Gul in Ankara over the weekend that he was pleased to still have Turkey's `full support.' Ergec denied press reports that he

is uncomfortable with the meeting held between Barzani and Turkish intelligence Undersecretary Emre Taner in the northern Iraqi city of Salahaddin earlier this month. During the meeting, Barzani had reportedly stressed to Taner that it is necessary to find a 'democratic solution' to the PKK problem, and that the Iraqi Kurds will establish an independent state 'if it becomes necessary.' The Turkish General Staff (TGS) announced in a statement on Friday that press reports claiming that two Turkish generals participated in Taner's meeting with Barzani are false.

Erdogan on TGS Change of Command, Semdinli Incidents: Monday papers report that Prime Minister Erdogan has rejected speculation that the ruling AK Party government is bothered by the fact that Land Forces Commander General Yasar Buyukanit will become the new Chief of the Turkish General Staff (TGS) in August 2006. The pro-Government "Yeni Safak" carried the story with a front-page headline saying 'we have no prejudice against Buyukanit.' The PM also denied that the AKP was seeking to extend the mandate of the present TGS commander, General Hilmi Ozkok. Erdogan said he had never claimed that Buyukanit would not replace Ozkok as the chief of the TGS as scheduled, or that Ozkok would be supported by the AKP for the Turkish Presidency. Regarding the ongoing probe of the Semdinli bombings, Erdogan said that people in the region are afraid of speaking out against the PKK. 'People coming from different ethnic groups in Turkey cannot be asked to reject their background,' the PM

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said, stressing that all groups in Turkey should be united 'under the Turkish flag.'

Parliamentary Investigation into Semdinli Bombings: A delegation of the Turkish Parliamentary Human Rights Committee, in Semdinli to investigate the alleged involvement of security forces in the bombing of a bookstore in the mainly Kurdish town on November 9, said over the weekend that the bombs used in the attack on November 9 had been produced by the Turkish arms producer MKE. Military officials have told the commission that the Semdinli incident may be part of a rivalry between the PKK and groups controlled by Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) leader Massoud Barzani. Hakkari mayor Metin Tekce said over the weekend that the suspects in the Semdinli bombings are being protected by 'high-level Turkish officials.' Tekce noted that the main suspect in the bombing, jandarma officer Ali Kaya, remains free even though he has also been charged in another case for intimidating Kurdish businessmen in Diyarbakir. 'I am a Kurd, not a Turk, but I am proud to be a Turkish citizen,' Tekce said.

EU Parliament Not Satisfied with Turkey's Performance: The European Commission criticized Turkey for stalling on the implementation of reforms, Sunday papers reported. The report, drafted by Christian Democrat lawmaker Elmar Brok, welcomed recent comments by Prime Minister Erdogan on the Kurdish problem in Turkey. It also urged Turkey to open its ports and airports to Greek Cypriots. The report called on Turkey to give priority to freedom of expression and worship, independence of the judiciary, the prevention of torture, the protection of women's rights, and the prevention of domestic violence. It expressed concern about the rise in violence in southeast Turkey. The EU Parliament will discuss the report in December. The EU Commission Representative in Turkey, Ambassador Hansjorg Kretschmer, complained that Turkey had not set up a single institution to coordinate EU accession negotiations. Kretschmer told FM Gul earlier this month that the EU had 'doubts about the efficiency of the negotiating structure' announced by Turkey's chief negotiator, Economy Minister Ali Babacan. Turkish diplomats said that is is 'not fair' to criticize the negotiating structure, given that the negotiations started just two months ago.

'TRNC' Launches Peace Attack in Cyprus: Turkish Cypriot

authorities have begun to take down the barricades dividing Lefkosa's (Nicosia) main avenue, Ledra Street, weekend papers report. Turkey has donated 500,000 Turkish Lira to the 'TRNC' to carry out the project. Greek Cypriot authorities pledged to remove barricades on the Greek side of Ledra Street as well if they are convinced that the move will cause no security problems. Papers comment that the Turkish Cypriot move has boosted hopes for a settlement in Cyprus. The new initiative is expected to revive trade and visits between the two sides on the eve of Christmas.

"Milliyet" reports that the Turkish Cypriots are preparing to open a new passage to the south in the Green Line buffer zone dividing the island. There are already five crossings connecting the two sides. Dailies also report that Turkish Cypriot authorities are preparing for another 'surprise step forward' to return assets in the north to their Greek Cypriot owners. According to a draft bill, Greek Cypriots will be allowed to take back immediately assets in the north that are not being used by Turks. Final decisions with regard to the transfers will be made by the 'Compensation Commission' set up in 2003. The bill will go into effect once it is approved by the Turkish Cypriot 'parliament.' Papers expect the new regulation to relieve Turkey of

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property disputes being carried to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) by Greek Cypriots.

**Police Violence against Teachers:** Thousands of teachers and education workers gathered in Ankara from around Turkish provinces were barred from entering the capital by riot police, Sunday papers report. Police intervened to disperse the rallies of several small groups in the city, injuring 18 teachers and detaining scores of demonstrators. Television news showed demonstrators being beaten with truncheons and sprayed by water cannons. Egitim-Sen labor union chairpman Alaattin Dincer lashed out at the government for the brutality of the police against the demonstrators, and demanded the resignation of Education Minister Huseyin Celik. Papers criticize the excessive violence used by riot police against peaceful demonstrators, and noted that it was likely to draw fresh criticism from the EU.

**PKK Kills Two Hostages:** PKK terrorists killed two persons they had abducted in Dorytol, the southern province of Hatay, on Sunday. Halil Mese, a village guard, his friend Metin Durbak, and a third person were taken hostage by PKK terrorists in the Domuzdami region. The terrorists eventually released one of the hostages, but killed the other two.

#### EDITORIAL OPINION: Israel; CIA Planes

**"Peretz, Kadima and Washington"**

Washington-based Yasemin Congar wrote in the mainstream "Milliyet" (11/28): "The upcoming Israeli elections on March 28 will mark a first in Israeli history: a majority in the Knesset will support a withdrawal from the West Bank and the two-state formula, which means an independent state of Palestine. The Bush administration showed strong support for the Likud government under Sharon's leadership. The neo-cons in the US administration felt close to Likud but more importantly Sharon's support of the two-state formula meshed with President Bush's personal beliefs. If Sharon becomes prime minister again, he might unilaterally pull out of the West Bank. Therefore he and his party, Kadima, are viewed positively in Washington. A possible coalition government between Sharon and Peretz is also considered as a positive option here in Washington."

**"The Rhetoric of Skies"**

Mim Kemal Oke commented in the conservative "Tercuman" (11/28): "The CIA use of planes for torturing people is a clear crime against humanity. When the US wanted to deal with Al Qaeda suspects outside of international law, the

entire world was against it. The use of CIA planes is apparently a US tactic to overcome world anger by taking the outlaw practices into the skies. If the allegations are proved correct, it would be a tragic measure of humanity in the 21st century. It will also show much about how civilized the US is. The neo-con mentality which roared in the aftermath of 9/11 is drawing a very different picture of nationalism and religion. The mentality encourages intolerance and deals with issues in the same spirit as a lynching."

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